

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PA-03 NSC-10 SCI-06 PRS-01 EPA-04

CEQ-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

RSR-01 /094 W

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R 011300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1756

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOL SENV TGEN SCUL NV

SUBJECT: SPOKANE 1974 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

1. COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON, ACCOMPANIED BY ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, BRIEFED DUTCH MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE (MRS. VORRINK) ON JULY 30 RE SPOKANE EXPOSITION. DIRECTOR GENERAL SPAANDER OF DUTCH NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE AND MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DE GEER WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. MRS. VORRINK, THOUGH DAUGHTER OF PROMINENT DUTCH SOCIALIST KOOS VORRINK AND FORMER MEMBER OF FIRST CHAMBER, IS NOT TOO WELL KNOWN ON NATIONAL SCENE AND HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY MET WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL. WE WERE AWARE ONLY OF HER REPUTATION AS VOCAL LEFT-WINGER, SOMETIME CRITIC OF U.S. POLICIES, AND EMOTIONAL ESPOUSER OF "LIBERAL" CAUSES.

3. WE WERE THEREFORE NOT SURPRISED TO FIND THAT HER INTIAL

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REACTION TO HENDERSON'S PRESENTATION WAS BRUSQUE AND SKEPTICAL.

SHE ADVANCED PROPOSITION THAT SPOKANE EXPOSITION WAS ATTEMPT BY US ESTABLISHMENT AND BIG BUSINESS TO CONVINCE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN LARGELY SOLVED BY NEW TECHNOLOGY AND THAT CURRENT PROFLIGATE AMERICAN LIEF STYLE COULD CONTINUE UNRESTRAINED. SHE ASKED WHETHER ANY ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE TO POLICE US AND FOREIGN CORPORATE EXHIBITORS (INCLUDING DUTCH) WHO MIGHT TRY TO PROJECT THIS THEME. SHE SNIFFED AUDIBLY WHEN SHE HEARD THAT FRG AND ROC WERE AMONG POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS.

4. AS HENDERSON CALMLY AND GOOD-HUMOREDLY REFUTED THESE IMPLI-CATIONS, HOWEVER, AND EMPHASIZED CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL THEME, MRS. VORRINK'S ATTITUDE VISIBLY SOFTENED. SHE REMINDED HENDERSON THAT DUTCH PROBLEM (AS REPORTED IN HAGUE 3301) IS ENTIRELY ONE OF BUDGETARY PRIORITIES. SHE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF REALIZING ECONOMIES THROUGH COOPERATION WITH OTHER POTENTIAL EUROPEAN EXHIBITORS. SHE DEPLORED FRENCH STAND AGAINST JOINT EC EXHIBIT AND OFFERED TO EXPLORE WITH MINFIN DUIJSENBERG POSSIBILITY OF EARMARKING FUNDS FOR SPOKANE IN CY 74 BUDGET.

5. MEETING CLOSED ON POSITIVE NOTE, WIOH MRS. VORRINK ASKING ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TO KEEP HER MINISTRY DIRECTLY INFORMED ON DECISIONS REACHED IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS. SHE IMPLIED THAT IF COST SAVINGS COULD BE ACHIEVED AND DUTCH INVESTMENT IN EXPO 74 THEREBY JUSTIFIED, SHE WOULD PERSONALLY DICTATE CONTENT OF DUTCH EXHIBIT.

6. MEETING OF FULL HENDERSON PARTY SAME DAY WITH MFA OFFICIALS IS REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.
TANGUY

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